

## DETECTIVES IN THE DARK.

Police Have No Trace of the Men Who Robbed the Burden and the Barnes Mansions.

The Reward of Five Thousand Dollars Offered for the Stolen Jewels Ineffective.

### MINUTE SEARCH OF THE RESIDENCE.

It Was Made by Seven Central Office Sleuths, Without Result—Looking for Possible Accomplices—May Have Been the Work of a Chicago Thief.

It is hoped that the police will begin the new year by securing some definite and tangible clue to the robbers who on Friday night last stole jewels to the value of \$30,000 from the house of I. Townsend Burden, at No. 5 East Twenty-sixth street, and the "Old Sleuths" of Police Headquarters have now been working for four days, and the only fact so far developed in the case that is not dimmed by doubt is that the jewels are really missing.

Mr. Burden has tried the efficacy of a reward, but so far without receiving any reply. His advertisement is as follows: "\$5,000 reward for the recovery of the property taken from No. 5 East Twenty-sixth street on the night of Friday, December 27, and a very liberal reward will be paid for any information leading to the recovery of the property; parties can communicate in confidence with me or Mr. Burden."

This reward is offered by Mr. Burden with the consent of the police, who do not, however, believe that anything will come of it. The police think they know that the robbery was committed by old timers at second story work, and veterans such as they would surely know how to dispose of the gems to better advantage than that offered in the advertisement.

All the pawnbrokers in New York, as well as those in the other principal cities, have received lists of the missing gems, as well as some vague meager descriptions. The first lists sent out were hurriedly written by detectives to avoid the delay necessary for printing the notices.

SEARCHED THE HOUSE. A thorough search of the Burden house has again been made, this time by Central Office men, who have not left a single nook or corner in the big mansion uninvestigated. The personal property of the servants was examined, but without finding anything of value. The search was made by a woman, apparently of the servant class, came out and walked away untroubled. Her eyes furnished unmistakable evidence of weeping. She was a former employee of the family, who had been put under a rigid process of questioning by the detectives. It is said on credible authority that two persons in the house, a man and a woman, are under suspicion of knowing something about the robbery, but neither the police nor members of the Burden family will confirm this. The fact that the detectives might involve so many to the servants might indicate that there is some basis for it. It is not believed that they are looking for the thieves in the house, but for an accomplice of the outside parties who really committed the crime. There is a good deal of laughter and gossip in the club and society about the grand shrinkage.

All second story thieves known to be in New York are shadowed by the police, and in this department is killing two birds with one stone, as the detectives hope also to catch the thieves who on the same night stole the jewels from the Barnes mansion, at No. 229 Central Park West, of diamonds worth \$7,000. The absence of clues in the Barnes case is quite as pronounced as in the Burden affair.

A negro was arrested in East Eighty-fourth street by Central Office detectives yesterday afternoon, and taken to the headquarters. The police are known to be looking for Thomas Tucker, the New York negro who was concerned with the robbery of the house of Matthew Morgan, at No. 284 Lexington avenue, in 1887, in which jewels were stolen in a manner similar to the Burden case. The negro was seen in the current, after the arrest in Eighty-fourth street, that Tucker had been found. Captain O'Brien said, when questioned by the police, that he was arrested as a suspicious character, and that he positively was not wanted in connection with either robbery.

From Chicago it is learned that no second-story thieves have recently been released from Joliet Prison. The Chicago police are interested in the Burden robbery. They have been requested by the New York department to look up big thieves and to see what they are doing, and if they have been seen in Chicago.

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### NO TAX ON BURDEN JEWELRY.

The Owner Was Once on the Rolls for \$20,000, but Swore Off Later.

President Barker, of the Tax Board, yesterday received a letter from E. Thompson, of No. 89 Union square, asking him if the stolen Burden jewels had been assessed. The letter was as follows:

"Looking over your books Saturday, I did not find \$75,000 worth of jewels assessed against Burden. Is it a fake—that robbery? Did they own that amount?"

Mr. Barker said that I. Townsend Burden had been on the 1895 rolls for \$20,000, but he had sworn off, saying that his residence was in Troy; that he lived here only three months out of the year, and made his home in Troy. He was in Troy, his brother, James A. Burden, adopted a similar course.

### A COON HUNT AT FREEDOM.

Freedom, N. J., Dec. 31.—There was a coon hunt here last night in a pouring rain storm. The coon was let loose at West Freedom, and twenty minutes afterward the hounds gave chase. They soon found the coon, and in an hour and a quarter from the starting point it was caught again, and there will be another hunt next week. Those in the chase were Charles Green, Harry Applegate, Henry Crotchell, John Miller, William Grant, Melville Buck, Philip Keller, Frank Dey, Frank Snyder, Forman Barklow, Walter Hendrickson and Dennis Carey.

### A Chair of Americanism.

Harvard has a Venetian in the person of Professor McVane, who assures his students that he is not one of the "Yankees" and that it is to have a chair of Americanism in at least one American college.

## SEABOL.

Leadership in the Third Assembly District by the Ex-Assemblyman's Friends.

Jacob Seabold and his election district captains in the Thirty-third Assembly District met in the Osceola Club, No. 376 Willis avenue, on Monday evening, and mapped out their work for one of the most aggressive and picturesque primary elections that as ever been held in this city. Seabold's election as the leader of this district is being contested by James J. Bishop, former associate leader, and William J. Ellis, who was confidential clerk to Thomas F. Gilroy when he was Mayor.

In fact, the fight against Seabold is being led by the Gilroy element in the district, who desire to weaken Henry D. Purroy's influence in the executive councils of Tammany Hall.

John C. Sherrill, the nominal leader of the Tammany organization, and Richard Croker are anxiously watching Seabold's fight against his enemies.



Jacob Seabold.

Word has gone through the district that the Gilroy element must be entirely eliminated, and that Seabold must be returned to the Executive Committee. The meeting Monday evening was to discuss the most effective methods to suppress the Gilroy following.

"I propose to show those people," said Seabold yesterday, "that I have the confidence and support of the citizens of this district. We will not accept dictation from any non-resident citizen, whose only claim for notice is that he is a friend of Mr. Gilroy. The Democrats of the Thirty-third Assembly District can conduct their affairs without outside dictation."

These people—Bishop and Ellis, both friends of Mr. Gilroy—have been conducting a campaign of vituperation. Their venom is all directed against me. I have given them every opportunity to conduct their fight against me, but they have refused to do so. I would not oppose him. Ellis pretended that he was a resident of this district, and that he had a personal grievance against me. I would not support his candidacy for the Assembly from this district. I would not give him any prominence, but said that if he could get the backing of the General Committee I would not oppose him. Ellis said that he was a resident of this district, and that he had a personal grievance against me. I would not support his candidacy for the Assembly from this district. I would not give him any prominence, but said that if he could get the backing of the General Committee I would not oppose him.

Since then he has been trying to foment a riot. He has tried to influence the members of the General Committee against me, but he could get only the support of about three men out of the total 200 men who serve on the General Committee of this district. "No," Ellis and Bishop represent no one but themselves, but they have created so much talk and discussion that the General Committee of this district proper has completely wiped out any little Gilroy element that may be smoldering in this vicinity. We have made arrangements to conduct one of the largest primary elections that has ever been held in this city. We have hired all the hacks and carriages in this vicinity, and will visit every section of the district. Each carriage will have a banner with the inscription, "Get In and Go to the Primaries." We will call on the Democratic business men up this way, drive them to the voting place, and take them home again.

"We will make a house to house canvass. All my lieutenants will be on hand, and if there is a Gilroy man left I will be disappointed. He has tried to influence the members of the General Committee to conduct one of the largest primary elections that has ever been held in this city. We have hired all the hacks and carriages in this vicinity, and will visit every section of the district. Each carriage will have a banner with the inscription, "Get In and Go to the Primaries." We will call on the Democratic business men up this way, drive them to the voting place, and take them home again.

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am defeated I will work in the ranks and be just as good and loyal a Tammany man as I can to-day. We are going to get not less than 2,000 citizens to attend the primary, but, of course, we do not expect each voter that many. I think that in the time allotted we will cast a vote of about 1,200, and maybe 1,500. We will give Mr. Gilroy's friends an object lesson in conducting a primary, and if they do not suffer a total eclipse after next Monday evening, it will be a great surprise to the Democrats of the Thirty-third Assembly District.

The primary will be held next Monday evening in Burns's Hall, at No. 2451 Third avenue.

### POISON MAY HAVE KILLED.

A Chemist is Analyzing the Powder Found in Mrs. Runnett's Dress—Her Funeral Yesterday.

Dr. Walter T. Schoele, a chemist, is making an analysis of the powder found in the bosom of the dress worn by Mrs. John Albert Runnett, who died in the area of Albert A. Nellis's house, No. 261 West Seventy-sixth street, Sunday night. Dr. Schoele was instructed by the authorities to complete the analysis as rapidly as possible. From the fact that but a small quantity of the powder remained in the bosom of the dress, it is inferred that the woman had swallowed the rest and had hurriedly thrust the paper in the bosom of her dress.

The powder is pale yellow, folded in tissue paper. If the analysis demonstrates that the powder is of a poisonous character the body of the dead woman will be exhumed and examined. In connection with this latest theory that Mrs. Runnett may have taken poison before she fell into the area, the police have made a very careful search of the Nellis residence. The carpets in the parlor and hall were covered with a fine mesh of gauze. The idea was to ascertain if there was any powder there similar to that found on the dead body.

Acting Police Captain Vredenburg had a consultation with Chief Conlin yesterday on the case. He learned yesterday that the body accepted for Nellis's appearance when wanted is practically worthless. Mrs. Nellis went on the bond and swore before Coroner Hooper that the property she offered was worth \$45,000 and mortgaged for \$20,000. Real estate agents say the property in question would not bring more than the mortgage price. Acting Captain Vredenburg declined to say yesterday whether he had had the body examined, but he had indicated that the man had no intention of running away. The inquest has been postponed until January 8, to enable the police to make a further investigation.

The funeral of Mrs. Runnett took place yesterday from her late home, No. 261 West Seventy-sixth street. There was no minister or rabbi present, and but few friends gathered about the plain black casket in the back parlor of the boarding house. The funeral was strictly private. Late in the night before the arrangements for Undertaker Hooper were made, the body was taken to the funeral home of Undertaker Bergman, of West Seventy-sixth street.

Shortly after 11 o'clock a hearse and two carriages were driven to the door and a moment later the casket was carried from the house. On the lid rested a bunch of roses, a few palm leaves and a wreath.

The invalid husband of the dead woman was unable to witness the interment, which was in New Union Field Cemetery, opposite Cypress Hills Cemetery. As the funeral was about to start Coroner Hooper drove to the house in a cab. When he saw the hearse and carriages at the door he put his head out of the window and gave an order to be driven at once to his office.

### Spilled the Proposed Raids.

Acting Captain Chapman, of the Mercer Street Station, on Monday night went with two men in a patrol wagon to the Florida Hotel, No. 14 East Thirtieth street. He was armed with warrants for the arrest of numerous John Does and the proprietor, L. Meyer. The house was practically deserted when Chapman and his men entered. The police examined the register and found a list of names, but no one was there. The clerk said that the reason no guests were found in the house is because none were permitted to register. He refused to give further information, and the police went away without making a single arrest.

A few days ago, when Jerome Hotel, University place, was raided, the same condition of affairs was noted, and again, later, the proprietor of a third house scheduled to be raided was "lipped off." Acting Captain Chapman complained to Chief Conlin yesterday, and an investigation may be held.

## WHO KICKED PERRY'S CAT?

The Animal Has Had to Be Taken Apart and Adjusted as to Liver and Other Vital Organs.

It has long been a question on Park row who it was that kicked "Charley" Perry's cat. No one knows, but had the identity of the scoundrel been discovered a scene might have been enacted that would have cast a pall over the community. This cat has many friends. He knows the patrons of both drugstores, and is quite as insinuating in his drumming for trade as are the high-salaried clerks employed in them.

Some brute in human form kicked this cat, and for a long time he has been laid up. The trouble was finally diagnosed as liver out of order—not the regular complaint—this cat's liver had been kicked out of place. A huge swelling appeared, and then Perry said it was time for a counsel of cat doctors. The general opinion was that the cat was suffering from a severe case of indigestion, and work was begun. They found the cat all out of shape inside. The liver was way out of its latitude and longitude, and the poor cat must soon have died. The organs were arranged in their natural order, and the cat was carefully put together. Then they did the cat up in tight bandages, inserting plaster of paris where action of the muscles was not wanted.

When Perry dropped in at the store last night to see that all the side doors were open, the cat was seen. He was laid out on a table to rise to offer him a chair, but had to give it up. The entire prescription force is conspiring to save the cat's life, and it is thought they may succeed. If they do, the pride of Park row may thank his nine lives that he did not fall a victim to this unmanly brute in cowhide boots.

### Run of the Meadow Brook Hunt Club.

Hempstead, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The hunt of the Meadow Brook Hunt Club was very exciting on a small scale. There were only a few members out, but those that were present fully enjoyed the sport. The start was made from the Kermochan place at 3 o'clock, the hounds leading the hunters toward Garden City, then taking an easterly course through Mineola and East Williston, finally finishing at Westbury. There were no accidents. Among the riders were Mr. and Mrs. James S. Sernow, Mrs. J. E. S. Hadden, William C. Hayes, Maxwell Stevenson, H. K. Vint, Harry Whitely, Albert Stevens, Mrs. Adolph Lodenburg and Raoul Duval. Mrs. Kermochan was first in at the finish, with Mrs. Lodenburg a close second.

### BROADWAY, 9th & 10th Sts., FOURTH AVE.

OUR GREAT JANUARY SALE

To-morrow—Thursday—we shall start the New Year with a sale that we believe will over-top in interest anything of the kind ever seen in New York.

Many of the biggest stocks in the store are touched and touched hard. We tell of some of the notable offerings this morning, but not one in ten of the striking things gets a word.

SILKS There's a new hand among them. A new knife at some of the old prices. Better than that—there's a new grip on the market, new choosing of the newest styles and weaves.

All New York knows the high rank our Silk Stock has held for years. We mean to make it higher still. We mean that under the soft light of the great Rotunda shall be gathered the fullest, best and most temptingly priced Silk assortment you can find in town. It is getting there now. A flood of newness rushing in—the not so new being squeezed out.

The special lots for Thursday comprise over 25,000 yards of reliable, high class Silks at prices never thought of even here. There are Silks for Dresses, for Shirts, for Waists, for Linings, for every Silk use. There are \$1.25 Silks at 25 cents, there are \$4 Silks at \$1. Of course the dealers will be glad to snap them up. No, they are for you, our regular customers. To give all an equal chance these special Silks will not go on sale until 10 o'clock.

At 25c Brocade Taffetas, satin striped Japanese Silk, French Crepon. Values to \$1.25

At 75c Black ground Taffetas, colored figures, black and colored Grenadines, warp effect Taffeta, fancy brocades and stripes; Satin Duchesse, Peau de Soie, Moire Antique, Moire Francaise, evening Crepons. Values to \$2.50

At 85c Fancy Peau de Soie, fancy and warp effect Taffeta, pin stripe Antiques. Values to \$2.50

At \$1 Fancy Lyons Silks in Peau de Soie, Taffetas, Satins, Diagonals, bars, checks, stripes, antiques and changeable effects; street shades in Satin Duchesse, evening shades in Corded Silk, evening fancy Antiques, evening shades in brocade Grenadine and Gauze. Values to \$4

At \$1.25 English Plaids, French Bayadere Novelty, French Taffeta, French Satin Duchesse, checks and stripes; evening shades fancy Grenadine. Values to \$5

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## GOTHAM'S GUESTS.

FIFTH AVENUE—Talbot Aldrich, Boston; Thornton K. Lathrop, Boston; L. T. Houghton, Worcester, Mass.; G. E. High, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Lennon, Lynn, Mass.; L. M. Jackson, Providence, R. I.; Dr. Francis D. Magee and wife, Cambridge, Mass.

ALBEMARLE—E. H. Butler, Philadelphia; John Keyes Paige, Schenectady, N. Y.; E. K. Gardner and wife, Baltimore; Robert Clark, Glasgow.

HOFFMAN